

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00847 031144Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /064 W

----- 014044

R 031030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3723

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO UR MR GW FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 78926

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR STARTSEV PRIBUTED INVITATIONS TODAY (MAY 2) TO RECEPTION MAY 9 "ON OCCASION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEAT OF HITLERIAN FASCISM". SO FAR INVITATION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY SIX OUT OF TEN AMERICANS IN MISSION.

2. STARTSEV RAISED MATTER OF V-E CELEBRATION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUTIER DURING DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION APRIL 19. GAUTIER IMMEDIATELY CROSSED ROOM AND LITERALLY PULLED ME INTO DISCUSSION. STARTSEV ENTHUSIASTICALLY DESCRIBED TO TWO OF US HIS PLAN FOR RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION OF STILL PHOTOGRAPHS, COMMENTING OCCASION WAS IDEALLY SUITED TO DOING A LITTLE "PROPAGANDIZING" AMONG MAURITANIANS AND FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE. GAUTIER DECLEA HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS. I QUICKLY OUTLINED POSITION SPELLED OUT IN SERIES DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS: US IS PARTICIPATING IN MOSCOW CELEBRATION;BSCOW
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00847 031144Z

CEREMONIES ARE SUFFICIENT; NO JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF

ADDITIONAL CELEBRATIONS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE FAR REMOVED FROM WORLD WAR II.

3. FOLLOWING MORNING GAUTIER SOUGHT OPPORTUNITY TO TELL ME HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT THEY CLOSELY RESEMBLE MINE. WE AGREED TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO STARTSEV TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN ABOUT HIS REFERENCE TO "PROPAGANDIZING", SEEK HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE THERE WOULD BE NOTHING AT OR DURING PROJECTED RECEPTION THAT WOULD EMBARRASS OR DISTRESS FRENCH, AMERICANS, OR WEST GERMANS, AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ANY VIOLATION OF THE ASSURANCES MIGHT FORCE US TO CUT SHORT OUR PARTICIPATION.

4. AFTER INFORMING GERMAN CHARGE OF PROJECTED APPROACHES, GAUTIER MADE ABOVE POINTS TO STARTSEV APRIL 22. FOLLOWING DAY, I TOOK OCCASION OF STARTSEV'S RETURN COURTESY CALL TO MAKE AGREED-UPON APPROACH. STARTSEV REACTED VIGOROUSLY. HE REMINDED ME NAZIS HAD KILLED TWENTY MILLION SOVIETS, A FACT WHICH USSR COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT FORGET NO MATTER HOW MANY DELICATE DIPLOMATIC PSYCHES MIGHT BE UPSET BY EXPLICIT RECOLLECTION OF IT. SO FAR AS DISTURBING REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, STARTSEV DECLARED CELEBRATION WOULD FOCUS ON NAZIS AND WOULD NOT SPILL OVER ONTO FRG. HE ASSERTED USSR HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH FRG, RECALLING GENERAL SECRETARY BRESHNEV HAD MADE OFFICIAL VISIT THERE, AND DECLARED SOVIETS DID NOT WISH TO OFFEND FRG AND HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. INDEED, HE, STARTSEV, PLANNED TO INVITE GERMAN CHARGE TO ATTEND HIS RECEPTION.

5. WHATEVER TRIGGERED STARTSEV'S VIGOROUS RIPOSTE, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT DESPITE SERIES OF SUBSEQUENT CASUAL ENCOUNTERS, HE HAS NEITHER MENTIONED OUR MEETING OR V-E DAY RECEPTION SINCE.

6. PASSED SUBSTANCE MY DISCUSSION TO GERMANY CHARGE AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR DURING COURSE OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. I PLAN TO ATTEND MAY 9 RECEPTION AND PERMIT OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION TO DO SO UNLESS EVENTS BETWEEN NOW
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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00847 031144Z

AND THEN MAKE SUCH COURSE INADVISABLE. HANDY SIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, INVITATIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NOUAKC00847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0221
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacxtq.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 78926
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, MR, GE, FR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006